

NORMALIZING RECORDS

ABSTRACT

A method, apparatus, system, and signal-bearing medium that in an embodiment receive records from information suppliers and prepare a report, which includes a subset
5 of the characteristics of the records. The characteristics are selected based on a model norm, and the characteristics are ordered within the report based on a relative significance specified in the model norm. Also, the records are ordered within the report based on a sort rule in the model norm, and any missing characteristics are inserted with default values. In this way, the records received from disparate information suppliers are
10 normalized by the model norm to use a consistent format, which is more convenient for the requestor of the report.